

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02658 171753Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 TRSE-00 /054 W
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R 171708Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2847

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 2658

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IT
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - DISCRIMINATION AT ROME AIRPORTS

REF: STATE 35270; ROME 1888

1. DR. POSTIGLIONE, GENERAL MANAGER OF SOCIETA' AEROPORTI DI ROMA (SAR), INFORMED EMBOFF ON FEB. 17 THAT (A) SAR HAS REBILLED ALITALIA FOR ALL PAST DUE USER CHARGES BACK TO JULY 1, 1974 WHEN SAR WAS ESTABLISHED; (B) ALITALIA INFORMED HIM ON FEB 16 THAT IT IS NOW PREPARING TO MAKE FIRST PAYMENT TO SAR; (C) ALITALIA STEERING COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED NOT TO APPEAL CASE AND (D) FINAL JUDICIAL RULING (SENTENZA) SHOULD BE ISSUED WITHIN ABOUT ONE WEEK.

2. POSTIGLIONE SHOWED EMBOFF COPY OF SAR LETTER REBILLING ALITALIA FOR PAST FEES. BRIEF INSPECTION INDICATED BILLING IS FOR ABOUT 12 BILLION LIRE PLUS INTEREST (OVER \$13 MILLION). POSTIGLIONE OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED CASE CLOSED AND THAT JUDICIAL DECISION MERE FORMALITY. HE EXPLAINED THAT LAZIO REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION TRIBUNAL (TAR) DECISION ON JAN. 31 WAS AN ORDER (ORDINANZA) REVOKING ITS OWN EARLIER ORDER, OF FEB. 17, 1975 WHICH SUSPENDED ALITALIA'S OBLIGATION TO PAY SAR WHILE THE CASE WAS UNDER REVIEW.

3. POSTIGLIONE ADMITTED THAT ALITALIA STILL PROVIDED ABOUT HALF
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PAGE 02 ROME 02658 171753Z

OF ITS GROUND HANDLING SERVICES (INCLUDING CATERING). HE EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS BY NO MEANS ANXIOUS TO TAKE OVER ANY TIME SOON RESIDUAL SERVICES STILL PERFORMED BY ALITALIA BECAUSE (A) SAR STILL NEEDED TO CONSOLIDATE AND UPGRADE OPERATIONS IT HAD ALREADY ASSUMED AND (B) SAR WOULD LOSE MONEY. HE CALCULATED THAT ADDITION LABOR COSTS WOULD BE 18 MILLION LIRE PER YEAR AND LEASE PAYMENTS ON ALITALIA HANGAR SPACE ETC. WOULD BE 4 MILLION LIRE WHILE

INCREASED GROUND HANDLING FEES WOULD COME TO ONLY 10 MILLION LIRE. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, HE COULD TAKE OVER ALITALIA GROUND HANDLING IF THE AUTHORITIES SO ORDERED BECAUSE LAW 755 OF NOV. 19, 1973 SPECIFIES THAT SAR WILL CONTROL ALL GROUND HANDLING AND BECAUSE HE COULD, UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, WORK OUT SOME COMPENSATORY ARRANGEMENT TO COVER THE OPERATING DEFICIT INVOLVED.

4. POSTIGLIONE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN A WEEK OR TWO.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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